Reconstitution of Railway Recruitment Boards

1805. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently dissolved all Railway Recruitment Boards in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government had received any complaints on the functioning of Railway Recruitment Boards;

(d) if so, to what extent those complaints were investigated and found correct and the actions being initiated for those found guilty;

(e) whether new Railway Recruitment Boards have been constituted; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government to allow them to function freely and impartially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Railways had received complaints related to some of the Railway Recruitment Boards. Such complaints were investigated as per prescribed procedure and based on the findings of the investigation, action wherever required has been initiated against those found guilty.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Since no Railway Recruitment Board has been dissolved, the question of their reconstitution does not arise.

Drives against unauthorized agents and touts

1806. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the results of the intensive drives against unauthorized travel agents and touts, who book substantial number of tickets under false names, especially during Durga Puja, Dussehra and Diwali festivals;

(b) whether any specific probe, with or without the help of CBI has identified railway officials who maintained links with touts and cartels during festival related huge bookings in past ten months of 2009;

(c) whether any scanning has been undertaken in the Northern Railways as per instructions of Railway Board's Vigilance Department issued during August, 2009; and

(d) whether unusually high transactions have been found on specific counters in Delhi, Patna, Kolkata, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) During Pooja season special checks were conducted and 150 touts/unauthorized travel agents were apprehended and prosecuted.

(b) During last 10 months, 30 Railway Officials have been taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules for connivance with touts/travel agents.

(c) Special checks were conducted by Zonal Railways including Northern Railway, on the instruction of Railway Board's Vigilance Department during the period August, 2009 to September, 2009.

(d) No such case has been reported.

Scheme to track trains through satellites

1807. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have recently approved a scheme to track trains through satellite;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether the scheme would be in the interest of railway commuters; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (d) A pilot project "Satellite Imaging for Rail Navigation (SIMRAN)" was approved in 2003, to be developed jointly by Research Designs and Standards Organization (RDSO) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. The project has been jointly funded by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The projects can provide online train running information to public/passengers. Field trials have been conducted and results are being analysed.

Increase in train accidents

†1808. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in train accidents in the last year;

(b) whether their investigations have been completed;

(c) whether shortage of employees is one of the reasons;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.